

Wycombe Wand. get through in second half

Sports Mail Special Report

WYCOMBE WANDS ... 4 : WHITLEY BAY ... 2

IN the Amateur Cup second round today before the biggest crowd of the season at Loakes Park, Wycombe Wanderers beat Northern League championship contenders Whitley Bay, scoring twice in the second half after sharing four goals midway.

Wycombe Wanderers: Syrett; Beck, Pullin; Maharg, Roystone, Lewis; Worley, Horseman, Lowen, Balson, Hodges.

Whitley Bay: Coates; Twaddle, Hetherington; Walton, Oakley, Ramshaw; Elliott, Cain, Wright, Sloan, Gidney.

Referee: K. Atkins (Worcester).

There were thrills from the start as Wycombe Wanderers withstood the challenge of a bustling opening by Whitley Bay. Whitley Bay forced a corner in the first minute, and goalkeeper Syrett did well to save a header from Cain.

Then the keeper pushed a powerful drive from Ramshaw over the bar. Six minutes after the start WRIGHT put Whitley Bay ahead from a centre by Gidney, but Wycombe hit back with great gusto and five minutes later Hodges raced away on the left and centred for LOWEN to equalise with a crisp shot close in.

Exchanges were fast, with little to choose between the teams, though the Bay looked more dangerous in front of goal, with Wright often menacing a somewhat shaky home defence.

DEFENCE IMPROVES

Wycombe's wing men, Worley and Hodges, led some lively attacks to test the Bay defence, and once Balson should have given Wycombe the lead but hesitancy lost him the chance against the visitors' quick tackling back.

Whitley Bay were unlucky when Wright hit the post with a strong shot in another series of sharp-shooting attacks by the Northerners.

Whitley Bay continued to have slightly more of the play, but the home defence improved steadily.

Whitley Bay had to pack their goal to keep Wycombe out when the Wanderers rallied again, and Lowen almost scored with a clever flick in a goalmouth tussle.

Five minutes before half-time HORSEMAN put Wycombe ahead after a sparkling solo run, but Whitley Bay swept back again with a rush, and the vigilant WRIGHT equalised just before the interval from a pass by Walton.

Half-time: Wycombe Wanderers 2, Whitley Bay 2.

Whitley Bay had the better of the play early in the second half, and the home defence was often under pressure.

Left winger Gidney hit the cross bar once and Wright was still a constant danger as leader of the attack. But just when the Northerners seemed to be on top, WORLEY broke away for Wycombe and scored after a fine solo effort in the 56th minute.

Hodges and Lowen then broke away on the left and LOWEN added a fourth with a powerful drive.

Whitley Bay were now defending desperately. Wright and Cain both went near for the visitors in attacks towards the end, but Wycombe's morale was high and the defence held well to maintain their lead.

RESULT

WYCOMBE WAND 4
WHITLEY BAY 2
Attendance: 5,795.

LOWEN EARNS WYCOMBE WIN

Wycombe W 4 Whitley Bay 2

WYCOMBE'S opportunism took them to victory over Whitley Bay in this lively "North v. South" Amateur Cup duel.

Workmanlike Whitley Bay looked the more dangerous in front of goal, with centre-forward Billy Wright the most resourceful raider on the field.

Wright always menaced the closely packed home defence and put the Northern League side ahead within six minutes, but centre-forward Lowen equalised four minutes later.

The busy brilliance of wing halves Walton and Ramshaw—always ready for a long-range shot at goal—gave Whitley Bay the advantage in a closely fought first half, though their marksmanship was erratic.

After a sparkling solo effort by Horseman had given Wycombe the lead, however, the enterprising Wright levelled the scores again just before half-time.

The home defence, well marshalled by skipper Roy Stone, kept a firmer grip on the too-eager Whitley Bay forwards in the second half, and the turning point came when right-winger Worley nipped through in the 56th minute to put Wycombe ahead against the run of play.

A few minutes later the lively Lowen added another for Wycombe.